



URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

Year ended 31st December, 1939.

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Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer  
of Maternity and Child Welfare Service:  
WM. KEMP, M.B., C.M.Edin.

Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing & Transport Superintendent:  
T. E. BIRTWISLE, M.B.E., F.R.San.I., F.S.I.A., M.C.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLEFORD

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Castleford Urban District Council.

I have the honour of placing before you my twentysixth Annual Report, being a report on the health of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Health the report is greatly curtailed, and is restricted to dealing with matters which I regard as being of primary importance. Complete records are however being kept for inclusion in a comprehensive report after the termination of the war.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area..... 4,394 acres.

Estimated Resident Population:-

(a) for calculation of birth rate..... 42860  
(b) for calculation of death rate..... 42640

Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1939 est.) 11,123

Rateable Value .....£182,510

Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..... £705

Density of population ..... 9.75 persons per acre.

Vital Statistics.

Births.	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Live Births - Legitimate	367	326	693
Illegitimate	14	11	25
Total			<u>718</u>

Birth Rate 16.75 per 1,000 of population (Legitimate 16.17)

Birth Rate for England and Wales - 15 per 1,000 of population.

Still Births:-	M.	F.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	11	13	24
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 32.35

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Deaths.....	481	262	219
Crude Death Rate 11.22 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.			

A.C.F. adjusted Death Rate 15.93.

Death Rate for England and Wales 12.1 per 1,000 of population.

Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Rate per 1,000 live & still births
Puerperal sepsis	0
Other puerperal causes	1.35
Total	<u>1.35</u>

P.T.O.

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births 65.46  
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 66.38  
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 40.0  
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales - 50 per 1,000 live births.

### Principal Causes of Death - 1939.

Heart Disease 125 and other circulatory diseases 22;	147
Cancer .....	63
Bronchitis 25      Pneumonia 26 .....	51
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	36
Suicide 5 and other violence 24 .....	29
Convulsions, Debility and Premature birth ..	25
Tuberculosis. Pulmonary 18, other forms 7 ..	25
Senility.....	19

### General Provision of Health Services.

These services in respect of laboratory, ambulances, nursing, hospitals (infectious disease and general) midwifery and maternity home, are being fully maintained.

An extensive part time ambulance service has been inaugurated, in connection with Civil Defence.

### Maternity and Child Welfare.

#### The Maternity Home.

The value of the Home to our people was again fully proved.

Owing to lack of accommodation we had to refuse admission to cases during the year.

Notwithstanding the difficulties arising out of war-time conditions I consider that I must again call your attention to the urgent need for improved and additional accommodation.

The matter has been mentioned in successive reports and I cannot do more than repeat what I said when I last reported to you. viz:-

"I do feel that I must urge the provision at a very early date of proper accommodation for the resident staff, and two additional beds to be kept reserved for emergency cases".

The admissions during the year were:-

Castleford cases .....	186
From W.R.C.C. ....	73
" Pontefract Borough .....	17
" Rothwell U.D. (Methley) .....	5
Total	<u>281</u>

There were 52 cases sent to other Institutions.  
Medical Aid was summoned in 96 cases. Of these 12 were to Hospital on account of complications.



Clinics.

Health Visitors.

The work at the Clinics has proceeded in a satisfactory manner, as has also the work of the Health Visitors.

Details of services above mentioned have already been supplied to the Ministry of Health on Forms MCW 96 and 96 A.

The arrangements for Dental and Orthopaedic services remain as before.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the Area are fully dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows the incidence of various diseases, together with the number of patients removed to Hospital, and the number of deaths.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

SHEET IN AGE GROUPS.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														
NOTIFIED DISEASES.	At all ages											Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.	
		Under 1.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45			45-65
Scarlet Fever	76	1	3	6	9	8	28	12	4	5	0	0	73	0
Diphtheria	85	0	1	1	6	3	21	25	17	10	1	0	84	2
Erysipelas	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	8	0	0
Pneumonia	26	1	1	1	2	0	4	0	4	6	3	4	0	0
Enteric Fever	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	2	0	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	231	5	6	9	17	13	53	38	28	33	12	13	163	2

Tuberculosis

The following tables shew the number of new cases and mortality together with the number of cases shewn on the register at the beginning and the end of the year.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Totals.
	M	F	M	F	
No. of cases on the register on the 1st January, 1939.	243	149	76	72	540
Cases transferred from Tadcaster Rural District.	10	6	2	6	24
New cases notified during the year.	19	18	7	9	53
Totals	272	173	85	87	617
Removed from register during the year.	121	90	30	28	269
Remaining on register 31st December, 1940.	151	83	55	59	348

Notifications 53	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
At all ages.	19	18	7	9	6	12	5	2
Under 1 year	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
5-15	0	5	3	0	0	1	0	0
15-25	5	5	1	4	0	4	1	0
25-35	3	3	1	2	0	2	1	1
35-45	3	1	0	0	2	3	2	0
45-55	4	3	1	1	2	1	1	0
55-65	3	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Over 65 yrs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Conclusion.

I will conclude this shortened report with the hope that the next one may be written under happier circumstances.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

Town Hall, Castleford.  
26th November, 1940.

WM. KEMP. M.B., C.M. Edin.,  
Medical Officer of Health.



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URBAN DISTRICT OF CASTLEFORD

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector,  
Year ended 31st. December, 1939.

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To the Chairman and Member of the  
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my twenty-seventh Annual Report.

No attempt has been made to give a complete picture of the work of the Department for the year 1939 owing to the fact that the country is at war.

The activities of the Department have, during both the present year and the year under review, been to a considerable extent devoted to work in connection with Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence. The reason for the omission of many of the usual particulars will therefore be appreciated.

The precaution has been taken however of keeping of necessary records, with a view to the preparation of a comprehensive report at the close of hostilities.

Housing.

The need for the provision of additional houses for persons of the working classes still exists in the district; while some difficulty is being experienced in securing necessary repairs to occupied dwelling-houses.

War time conditions prevented our going forward with projected work in connection with Clearance Areas, action for demolition of unfit houses, and the provision of accommodation for persons who would have been displaced by such action. We were however able to take certain action, particulars of which are given below:-

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of Local Authority or their officers ... .. 44

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... .. 10

(b) By Local Authority in default of  
905.70.11/40/S.I owners ... .. nil

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation ... ..	31
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	21
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners	
(a) To render houses fit for human habitation ... ..	11
(b) As to usage other than human habitation ... ..	4

The following is a summary of the action taken under the Housing Acts, 1930-36, and the position at the 31st. December, 1939:-

Part I of the Act. Clearance Areas -

No. of unfit dwelling-houses demolished	56
No. of persons displaced ... ..	188

Part II of the Act. Individual Unfit Houses -

No. of dwelling-houses demolished -	
formal action ... ..	94
informal action ... ..	26
No. of dwelling-houses closed ... ..	23
Parts of buildings closed ... ..	7
No. of persons displaced from above ...	541
No. of dwelling-houses made fit -	
formal action ... ..	150
informal action ... ..	865

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

Particulars as to milk purveyors and producers, dairies, etc., are given below:-

No. of Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk on the Register ... ..	6
No. of Retail Purveyors of Milk on the Register ... ..	51
Total number of Cowsheds in the District	6
Total number of Milk Cows ... ..	90
Total number of Dairy and Cowshed Inspections	37
Number of "Accredited" Producers ... ..	nil



There were two licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, to sell milk as Pasteurised, one of which is a supplementary licence.

As previously reported, there is one dairy in the District where pasteurisation of milk is carried on. In addition to the milk brought to this dairy for pasteurisation, the greater part of the raw milk produced outside the area, and brought into the District for sale by retail, is distributed from this dairy.

For the purpose of bacteriological examination, 55 samples of milk were taken, 46 of ordinary milk and 9 of pasteurised milk. They were submitted to the County Bacteriologist at County Hall, Wakefield, and the results of examination are given below.

#### Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

Number of samples taken of Ordinary Milk ...	46
Number of samples which satisfied the Methylene blue test for Accredited Milk ...	18
Number of samples taken of Pasteurised Milk ...	9
Number which satisfied Plate Count Test ...	7

All the above samples were further subjected to a biological test, and the following results were obtained:-

Ordinary Milk found to be Tuberculous ...	1
Pasteurised Milk found to be Tuberculous ...	nil

In addition to the foregoing 3 samples were taken of Ordinary Milk for biological test only, and these were found to be satisfactory.

With reference to the sample found to be tuberculous, I am informed by the Public Health Department of the County Council that this was traced back to the farm by the veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, where a tuberculous cow was discovered and slaughtered. The herd in question was cleared in due course.

It is worthy of note that in the year 1938 we had 10 samples of milk found to be tuberculous, out of 63 submitted, while in 1939 we had 55 samples submitted, of which one was tuberculous, a drop from 16% to 1.8%. This clearly shows the value of regular sampling and biological examination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

#### Sampling.

In my last report I gave a summary of the provisions of this new Act, and the duties which would devolve upon the Council as a Food and Drugs Authority.

The Act came into force on the 1st. day of October, 1939. The total number of samples taken during the remaining part of the year was 18, comprising:-

Milk ...	12
Butter ..	5
Lard ...	1

All were found to be genuine.

One prosecution was undertaken, the offence being the attaching of a label to a bottle containing milk, describing the milk as pasteurised when it had not been so treated, and was calculated to "mislead as to the nature, substance and quality of the said food, contrary to Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938."

The defendant pleaded guilty, but this notwithstanding the case was dismissed on payment of costs.

I am indebted to the officers of the West Riding County Council for informing me as to samples taken by them during the first 9 months of the year. These were as follows:-

42 samples of milk.  
34 other samples. (dry)

Of these 4 milk samples were found to be adulterated and cautions were issued. All the remainder were genuine.

Meat and Other Foods.

As in previous years careful attention was devoted to the inspection of meat and other foods.

There are 14 private slaughter houses in the district all subject to annual licence.

Early in the present year, one of these was taken over by the Ministry of Food, and all slaughtering for the district is now centralized at these premises. Inspection of all animals slaughtered is carried out.

One prosecution was undertaken, the offence being the depositing and preparing for sale of meat previously surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

The defendant was convicted, and a fine of £20 imposed.

The number of slaughtermen licensed is 54.

Summarised figures referring to this branch of work are given below.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed(if known) -	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected ... ..499	651	40	1681	3326	
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned Nil	Nil	Nil	2	3	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... .. 5	12	1	5	19	
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned 3	13	1	Nil	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..39	72	Nil	Nil	165	



Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption were as follows:-

10 tins Pressed Briskets of Beef  
1 tin Tongue  
1 tin Chicken and Ham  
7 tins Prawns  
8 Boxes Fish Fillets  
4 Baskets Mussels  
73 Rabbits

All food found to be unfit is removed and converted for use in industrial processes.

#### Fish Frying.

The trade or business of fish fryer was declared an offensive trade by your Council in 1927.

There are 59 fish frying establishments on the register.

#### Water Supply.

The results of sampling are shewn below.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

##### Samples from Public Supplies

No.	Date	Sample taken from	No. of Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water	Remarks
1.	2nd.Feb.	Town Hall	None	Satisfactory
	21st.Mar.	Churchfield Lane	None	do.
	do.	Lock Lane	None	do.
9.	28th.Aug.	Town Hall	16	Unsatisfactory
10.	28th.Sept.	Waindyke, Whitwood. (C'fd Main)	None	Satisfactory
11.	do.	Waindyke (Whitwood Main)	None	do.
12.	do.	Redhill Reservoir	3	Doubtful
13.	do.	Town Hall	6	do.
14.	19th.Oct.	Waindyke (C'fd Main)	None	Satisfactory
15.	do.	Waindyke (Whitwood Main)	None	do.
16.	do.	High Street.	None	do.
17.	do.	Bradley Avenue	None	do.
18.	do.	Smawthorne Lane	None	do.
19.	do.	Town Hall	None	do.
20.	do.	Ferrybridge Rd.	None	do.
21.	do.	do.	None	do.
22.	20th.Nov.	Pontefract Road	None	do.
23.	do.	Holmes Terrace Lock Lane.	None	do.

## Public Swimming Baths

No.	Date	Presumptive B.Coli in 100 ml. of water	p.H. Value	Free Chlorine in 1,000,000 parts of water	Remarks
2.	17th.Apr.	None	Not stated	Not stated	Unsatisfactory
3.	25th.Apr.	None	6.0	0.3	
4.	do.	1	6.0	0.3	
5.	16th.May	13	5.8	None	
6.	27th.June	None	6.3	0.3	
7.	31st.July	None	6.8	None	

One sample was taken in Churchfield Lane for chemical analysis, which gave the following results:-

Total Solid Matters	...	18.0
Chlorine (combined)	...	1.6
Nitrites	...	None
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	0.275
Free Ammonia	...	0.0028
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0021
Lead, Copper, Zinc	...	None

## Public Cleansing and Transport.

All figures given under this heading refer to the year ended 31st.March,1940.

Owing to the outbreak of war, and the consequent need to recover waste material for re-use in war supplies, close attention was paid in the latter part of the year to the Department's salvage scheme. The results of the methods adopted will be found in the report for 1940.

## Costings.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

Refuse collected during the year was as follows:-

<u>Direct Labour</u>	Tons	Cwts
Ashbins and Dry Ashpits	19136	5
Ashpits (wet)	697	16
Shop refuse	901	9
Cesspools	3686	5
<u>Contractors</u>		
Ashbins and Dry Ashpits	2519	-
Ashpits (wet)	30	-
Total	26970	15

The cost of this was £7255. 1. 11d

The refuse was disposed of as follows:-

At the various tips 24,440 tons including soil for covering at a cost of £926. 5. 0d  
At the Destructor 4130 tons were disposed of at a cost of £502. 18. 2d.

## Salvage.

The gross income by salvage amounted to £300. 8. 7d.

	Standard Costs									
	Collection			Disposal			Salvage Profit			Nett Total
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£ s d
Nett Expenditure.										
A. Cost as rate in the £	0.	0.	10.29	0.	0.	2.03	0.	0.	0.11	0. 1. 0.21
B. (i) Cost per ton	0.	5	4.5	0.	1.	0	0.	0.	2.1	0. 6. 2.4
(ii) Cost per 1000 population. (Est.42860)	169.	5	7	33.	6.	11	1.	15.	5	200. 17. 1
(iii) Cost per 1000 premises. (Est.12000)	604.	11.	8	119.	1.	8	6.	6.	8	717. 6. 8
C. Weight of refuse per 1000 population per day	- 34.4 cwts									

## Street Cleansing.

The cost of work done under this head during the present year amounted to £3639. 8. 8d.

The West Riding County Council contributed the sum of £447 in respect of County Roads in addition to the above.

Street Gullies cleansed during the year were as follows:-

23,329

at a cost of ..... £591. 4. 7d.

## Street Gritting and Snow Removal.

The total cost of gritting was £978. 19. 7d and of snow removal £2199. 9. 11d, of which the County Council refunded £401. 16. 2d and £1055. 5. 3d respectively.

The great increase over last year's costs was of course due to the abnormal winter conditions.

## Transport Work.

Work done during the Year.  
By Motor Lorries.

Hours worked 28198. Loads hauled 22406, giving an estimated tonnage of 32134 tons 3 cwts, and an estimated mileage of 78674. During the period 15432 gallons of petrol and 3259 pints of oil were consumed.

## Motor Vans.

Work done by these two vehicles (Ford van and Dodge van) is as follows:-

Hours worked 1063. Journeys made 2360, giving an estimated mileage of 8501. During the period 569 gallons



of petrol and 91 pints of oil were consumed.

#### Gulley Emptiers.

Work done by these two vehicles was as follows:-

Hours worked 3572. Gullies cleansed 23329. Other material removed 3686 tons 5 cwts. Mileage 7256. During the period 1860 gallons of petrol and 245 pints of oil were consumed.

The total expenditure for all services including overhead charges and running costs was £4381. 10. 1d.

The income was £348. 14. 8d leaving a net expenditure of £4032. 15. 8d. This does not include drivers wages.

The cost of haulage on these figures was at the rate of 2/2d per ton as compared with 1/10.2d per ton in 1938.

The net expenditure was charged out proportion-ately to the various services of the Council.

The increase in cost was chiefly in respect of petrol and oil purchased and in stock, equipment and loan charges.

#### Motor Ambulance Service.

Number of calls....1746

Miles travelled....20350

The total costs for the year were £555. 0. 2d  
Less Income 8. 6. 0d

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£546.14. 2d

Add for standing charges,  
proportion of rates and taxes,  
lights, etc.,

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40. 0. 0d  
£586.14. 2d

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The cost per mile was <sup>6.91d.</sup>~~6.89d~~

#### A.R.P. Services.

By arrangements with the West Riding County Council petrol has since the outbreak of war been distributed to the various services, from the Council's storage tanks, and re-charged to County Council.

Nearly all the workmen of the Department have been trained in Decontamination work, and are fit to cope with such emergency in this connection as may arise.

The augmented ambulance service, together with cars for First Aid Parties and Sitting Casualties, has been organized by the staff of the Department. They have also co-operated with the Medical Officer of Health in the general organization of casualty services.



## Disinfection and Disinfestation.

The steam disinfector installed some years ago is of a type which is now obsolete, and should be replaced by one of modern design at the first opportunity.

House disinfection was done by means of spraying, and fumigation with formalin vapour.

Disinfection of schools by spraying was done from time to time as deemed necessary.

The furniture and effects of 31 families were disinfested before removal to Council owned houses.

In addition to the work done, in respect of families so transferred, attention was given to other occupied dwellings. In this connection 18 Council owned houses and 9 privately owned houses were subjected to disinfestation.

## Public Conveniences.

The expenditure and income were as follows:-

Gross expenditure.....	£501. 3. 2d
Less Income.....	<u>£105.14. 8d</u>
Net Expenditure.....	<u>£395. 7. 6d</u>

All the public urinals in the town were cleansed twice daily at the least.

## Drainage, Sewerage and Sanitary Alterations.

Works carried out during the year 1939 are summarised below:-

Privies abolished (redundant)	1
Privies converted into water closets	62
Slop closets converted into water closets.	16
Water closets abolished.	20
Water closets (additional) provided to existing buildings.	22
Water closets provided to new buildings.	117
Drains and water closets reconstructed or repaired.	51
Drains, water closets, etc. opened or cleansed.	136
Ashpits (wet) abolished.	40
Ashpits (dry) abolished.	21
Ashbins provided in substitution for ashpits.	101
Chemical closets.(new)	1
Ashbins provided to new buildings.	118
Ashbins abolished.	20

## Air Pollution.

### Sootfall.

The total sootfall for the year as shown by analysis of the deposit passing through our soot-gauge, was found to be at the rate of 336.37 tons per sq. mile. The amount of tar deposited to the sq. mile was 7.77 tons, and that of sulphur compounds was 28.10 tons.

### Sulphur Estimation.

Town Hall..... 3.797 milligrammes of SO<sub>2</sub> per day.  
Maternity Home..... 4.041 milligrammes of SO<sub>2</sub> per day.

### Petroleum Storage.

There were issued during the year 56 licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and carbide of calcium; the quantity allowed to be stored under licence was 456767 gallons of petroleum spirit and 3146 lbs of carbide of calcium.

### Statement of Defects or Nuisances Found and Results of Action.

Total number of inspections for nuisances .....	1758
Defects or nuisances found .....	644 (premises)
Number carried over from 1938..	412
Number abated during 1939 .....	946
Number outstanding end of 1939	110
Notices issued.	
Informal Notices .....	294 complied with 642
Statutory Notices .....	9 do. do. 4

In conclusion, I again desire to express my appreciation of the continued confidence the Council repose in me, and again to thank my staff for their consistently good work during the year.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T.E.BIRTWISLE,

Sanitary Inspector,  
Cleansing and Transport  
Superintendent.

Town Hall,  
Castleford.  
26th. November, 1940.